

the discharge of the peridiolum the endoperidium remains evaginated, and may be seen as an opaque 'bubble' on the spent fruiting body (Fig. 1, C. and E.).

The spore discharge mechanism of *S. stellatus* has been ascribed by Ingold (1953) to the absorption of water by the palisade layer which forms the inner wall of the endoperidium, thus increasing its surface area. The outer wall of the endoperidium, which consists of interwoven hyphae, tends to impede this increase, so that strains are set up which are suddenly and violently released by the inner cup turning inside out. The peridiolum which was previously contained in the endoperidium is catapulted out with great force.

The maximum distances reached by the peridiola at Mr. Elson's home were conservatively estimated to be 10 feet horizontally and 9 feet vertically. Compare this with Cleland's (1934) estimate of 4 inches for the distance attained by specimens in South Australia. Nicol (1945), on the other hand, in more popular vein, reports on the 'great international fungus-gunnery competition' in which the two contestants Dr. A. H. R. Buller (Canada) and Miss L. B. Walker (U.S.A.) set records of 18 feet 7 inches for the horizontal distance and 14 feet 5 inches for the "all-time high" respectively.

S. stellatus has been recorded from a number of countries including India, New Zealand, Europe and North America. In Australia it has been recorded from South Australia and Victoria. This is the first authenticated record for Western Australia and it is interesting to note that since the initial report several people including the author have observed peridiola in various other localities (on walls, footpaths, etc., close to buffalo grass lawns), indicating that this fungus, rather than being rare, is fairly abundant in the metropolitan area of Perth, with buffalo grass litter appearing to be the most suitable habitat.

REFERENCES

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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Corvus feeding on Oranges.—On October 31, 1959, while inspecting an orange grove on the property of Mr. S. Byrd, of Harvey, my attention was directed to numbers of oranges on the ground with holes about $1\frac{1}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter in the skin and the contents entirely lacking.

When the matter was referred to Mr. Byrd he stated definitely that this was the work of crows which fed upon the oranges. Mr. Byrd has handled locally killed birds but has not encountered any with the bases of the feathers white, so it seems reasonably

certain that the birds in question are, as might be expected, Australian Ravens (*Corvus coronoides*).

Angus Robinson (*W.A. Nat.*, 7, 1960: 114) mentions the King Parrot (*Purpureicephalus spurius*) as well as the Raven as responsible for puncturing oranges, the contents then being eaten out by Silvereyes (*Zosterops gouldi*).

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Collie.

Black-throated Butcher-bird and Little Falcon hunting in Unison.—At Mt. Anderson, 70 miles south-east of Derby, on June 26, 1960 my wife and I observed a Black-throated Butcher-bird (*Craticus nigrogularis*) and a Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) chasing a Rufous-throated Honeyeater (*Conopophila rufogularis*). Our attention was attracted by the falcon stooping at a bush. The butcher-bird was then seen to dive into the bush after the honeyeater, driving it out. The falcon stooped again, missing, and the honeyeater gained shelter in another bush. The butcher-bird and the falcon perched side by side on top of the bush. After a minute the butcher-bird dashed through the branches, startling the honeyeater out. Again the falcon missed and the honeyeater regained the first bush. For about ten minutes the two predators chased their prey between the two bushes. Finally the honeyeater made a dash for a nearby tree and was taken by the falcon, which carried it out of sight.

—PETER SLATER, Derby.

OBITUARY

C. B. PALMER

Cyril Bryan Palmer, a former president and one of the links with the very earliest years of the Club, died on March 4, 1961. He was born on October 18, 1893, at Folkestone, Kent, England and came to Western Australia in 1911. He took up land at Tenindewa, near Mullewa, where he was joined a couple of years later first by his father and then by his mother and three sisters. Here Cyril remained as a farmer for 15 years. However he had an ingrained feeling for scientific matters and at the farm developed interests which gave him a reputation in Perth and interstate. Another brother, who had remained in England when the rest of the family immigrated, also had the same natural inclination. He was P. Chetwynd Palmer, a London civil servant, who developed into a skilled microscopist and eventually became editor of *The Journal of the Quekett Microscopical Club*.

At the farm Cyril became interested in pedigree goat breeding and in 1926 he was a judge in the goat section at the Sydney Royal Show. He also judged at the Perth Royal Show and regularly judged at country agricultural shows. He was foundation president of the Goat Breeders' Association of Western Australia, of which he was later made an honorary life member. He also developed a great interest in the grasses, their speciation and